# Listening Session with the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) Notes

Thursday, September 24, 2015

From September 22-25, the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders traveled to Hawaii for a historic visit. The 19-member Commission works with the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to improve the quality of life for AAPIs in federal programs where they are underserved. Hawaii is home to the majority of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in the U.S. This visit is the first time the Commission has directly engaged with leaders in the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community.

## Topic 1 - Native Hawaiian Land Rights

Speaker 1: This is in regards to the 2012 agreement between the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Home Lands Association (SCHHA) and the Department of the Interior (Interior). This agreement should enable Interior to consult directly with beneficiaries on trust and oversight, and allow direct communications, regular visits, and briefings in DC. Currently, Interior does not consult with us, but rather consults with the State of Hawaii, which then acts against beneficiaries' best interests. There needs to be regular briefing sessions between beneficiary groups to establish a conduit between us and the federal agencies. We can work with Interior, but we can't counteract inept state agencies. By having a cooperative agreement, we can create a direct relationship with the state government.

Speaker 2: There have been no rules made since the Hawaiian Act of 1919. We need to push rulemaking. [Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) is] running rogue and mismanaging money and land: only 40,000 acres have been awarded to Native Hawaiians. They have mismanaged our trust; please help us with rulemaking so we can put handcuffs on them. Additionally, DHHL does not provide assistance. Hawaiian organizations that have developed capacities to work on-on-one with federal agencies, like the Department of Agriculture (USDA), do not work with DHHL.

Speaker 3: Next June (2016), we want to take a group of farmers to meet with federal agencies. We need to get attention from the Department of Justice and have one of their attorneys look at the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. Hawaii is a state with 1.8 million acres of land, and yet the land is neither properly administered nor properly maintained. Please help us hold the US government accountable.

Speaker 4: There are currently 29,000 Hawaiians waiting for the land promised to them. Some have already died or are dying while on this waiting list. The federal government must stop the state from giving land to commercial interests and return the land to the people. We request the Commission to ask the Department of Justice to review the case

Kalima v. State of Hawaii. The case was a victory, but it has not yet been settled by the state.

Speaker 5: The Kalima v. State of Hawaii case must be revisited. 313 claimants have already passed away; the state wants to do away with their claims so the land will not need to be handed over. There needs to be a dialogue with the Department of Justice now before the end of the Commission's term.

Speaker 6: There are currently few options for mortgage financing. The FHA 247 loan is one option, but Native Hawaiians only have access to 75% of home equity value whereas everyone else has access to 95%. This is a violation of fair lending regulations and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is facilitating this violation. The federal government needs to build trust and assume responsibility by amending the FHA 247 loan. Additionally, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL) is complicit in contracting private lenders and real estate agents that are at risk for foreclosure and lease cancellations. DHHL also use services from non-HUD approved agencies. We request the federal government to push the state to do the right thing and expand access to HUD-approved services.

Speaker 7: Hawaiians need housing. It is not uncommon for three or four generations to live in one house. Poverty is a reality: of the 500,000 Hawaiians in the world, about half have left Hawaii due to poverty. We also need land for our own schools. Funding from the Department of Education is needed to educate our children; not enough money is going to Hawaiian schools. Public schools do not serve our own: 40% of children are Native Hawaiian but they are not being taught their language and culture. Only 1% of children are enrolled in Hawaiian immersion schools, which is unacceptable.

## **WHIAAPI Response:**

Thank you. WHIAAPI understands and acknowledges the unique importance of access to homelands to the Native Hawaiian people. In May 2015, the U.S. Department of the Interior issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to seek public comments on a proposal for processes to clarify how the Department reviews land exchanges involving Hawaiian home (trust) lands and amendments to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act proposed by the State of Hawai'i. The public comment period closed on August 12<sup>th</sup> and the Department is now analyzing all public comments received. In addition, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is aware of the concern regarding FHA 247 loans and proposed remedies to this issue. WHIAAPI will share the concerns regarding Hawaiian homelands and beneficiary rights, FHA 247, and the *Kalima vs. State of Hawaii* case, to the U.S. Departments of the Interior, Housing and Urban Development, and Justice to determine what further actions may be feasible.

## **Topic 2: Hawaiian Charter Schools**

Speaker 1: The problems that charter schools experience stem from a system where only one decision-maker (State Department of Education) has total control. There needs to be multiple authorizers, which is permitted under law. Of the 34 existing charter schools, 8 will be closed. This is a reality we cannot accept: some of these charter schools have been around for 15 years. There needs to be a more even distribution of financial support to include charter schools.

Speaker 2: Our children attend public charter schools, which experience a disparity in funding. Children that go to Department of Education schools get more. We are currently paying more for out-of-state students than for our own children. The lack of money and support has both created obstacles and criteria for charter schools that public Department of Education schools are not required to follow. The legislature needs to create new criteria that are fair and even across the board to give charter schools the opportunity to succeed.

Speaker 3: I am a charter school teacher. Students need to have the opportunity to study Hawaiian history and pass it on. From my experience, charter schools are not treated in the same way as other schools.

Speaker 4: I am a teacher. The current educational system utilizes short term ways to evaluate children, which often contributes to the poor outcomes and shutdowns of charter schools. However, with sufficient attention, success is possible with charter schools. Long-term investments must be made.

Speaker 5: In regards to Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs), military personnel and Native Hawaiians are unable to access federal dollars. Some policies do provide access for us, but due to regulations that aren't sensitive to Hawaii, we are not able to use these funds to help Hawaii. We should think about expanding services and learning about how federal policies are creating divisions between ethnic groups.

#### **WHIAAPI Response:**

Thank you for sharing concerns regarding equal funding and support for Hawaiian public charter schools and military personnel in attendance at AANAPISI-designated colleges and universities. We will share these concerns with the U.S. Department of Education and will work with the Department and community to identify potential solutions for addressing these concerns.

## **Topic 3: Native Hawaiian Sovereignty & Federal Recognition**

Speaker 1: The Supreme Court lied about human rights and the US government stole our land. This land is stolen by the US; this is the Commission's notice that your entry onto our land is illegal and you are required to remove yourselves immediately.

Speaker 2: On behalf of the elders who left anger, love, and indebtedness to the generation that comes behind us. If you take care of the land, then the land will take care of you. We need to leave in harmony with nature. Before, we were self-sufficient and didn't need money — we just needed land and water. We fight for the dignity and sovereignty of the Hawaiian people; we are fighting for human rights and the right to live.

Speaker 3: We are not confused about who we are or about our history. We want to have the ability to control our destiny as a people. Areas that we can take back include: educating our youth, rehabilitating the incarcerated, addressing the generational issues of poverty, preventing teen suicide, among other areas. We doubt that those low statistics existed when we had control of our own destiny. We support the Department of Interior's efforts, but there is a disparity in federal government: we have been kept from self-governance and our abilities to address our own needs have been prevented. Proposed rules should resolve this and allow us to do what needs to be done to care for ourselves.

Speaker 4: We support the federal administration's rules. We are confident that we can move forward to improve all by allowing Hawaii to govern itself. We want our own native Hawaiian government to work directly with the State regarding issues of land, water, and people. Let us decide for ourselves and have a collective voice in our own Hawaiian government. We are confident that this will better leverage land to expand native land and assist in the establishment of a political government.

Speaker 5: We have to fight our own people to get a place; I am not sure if what I have to say should be said to you. I respect those for pro-independence. We may need to take up arms, but we should also come together. The government cannot define me. I don't know how you can help me. I believe in both ways; however, I support whichever way can get me there the fastest.

Speaker 6: There are two types of Hawaiians: native Hawaiians (50% native Hawaiian by blood) and people who were born here. I agree that we need to get the Department of Justice involved on this matter. Investigations should focus on the illegal occupation by your country. Inform your government to end the illegal occupation of Hawaii. Let us decide how we are going to run our own country.

## WHIAAPI response:

Thank you to the speakers. In 1993, the U.S. Congress enacted a joint resolution to apologize for the role of the U.S. government in the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii. In 1999, the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Justice issued a report on the reconciliation process, which recommended that "the Native Hawaiian people should have self-determination over their own affairs within the framework of Federal law." Therefore, on September 30, 2015, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("proposed rule") that would establish administrative procedures and criteria that the Secretary would apply if the Native Hawaiian community independently forms a unified government, which then seeks a formal government-to-government relationship with the United States. The proposed rule is open to public comment and all members of the public are encouraged to provide comments by email to part50@doi.gov, on www.regulations.gov (docket no. DOI-2015-0005), or by U.S. mail/hand delivery to the Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior, Room 7228, 1849 C St. NW, Washington, DC 20240. Comments must be received on or before December 30, 2015. The comments received by the Commission will not count towards the Interior public comment record but will be shared with the Agency.

## **Topic 4: Bullying**

Speaker 1: Harassment and bullying in Hawaii is actually increasing, not decreasing. Hawaii leads the nation in LGBT teenagers who plan on committing suicide. We need to address these concerns and co-host educational events that relate to education and health to promote wellness among the youth and the LGBT community. Rural women, teenagers, and youth in the K-12 education system are also affected, and current federal mandates are not working.

Speaker 2: Bullying is an issue in all schools, and it needs to be addressed by legislators. Children are reporting significant issues related to bullying, so we need educational programs focused on bullying prevention.

Speaker 3: There is a long tradition of respecting people living in the middle of the male and female paradigms. Transgendered persons are admired here in Hawaii. A Place in the Middle has produced a documentary for kids about a young girl meant to send a message about creating a place where every child can live to their full potential. We request that this film be taken as a resource and made available to the rest of United States and the world. The film was free and supported by many larger groups; please help us spread the word and teach love, honor, and respect for all.

#### **WHIAAPI Response:**

We share your concerns about bullying and the need for both dialogue and action. In 2014, WHIAAPI, partnered with the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of Education, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to launch the Bullying Prevention Task Force for the AAPI population. As part of this initiative, we launched a new anti-bullying public awareness and action campaign called "Act to Change" on October 15, 2015. We invite the

public to join the Act to Change campaign, which includes resources and information such as toolkits and language-access resources to further our efforts for bullying-prevention, and partnerships with LGBT community organizations to empower LGBT youth. We will also share these comments with the Bullying Prevention Task Force members to determine any additional actions that can be taken.

## **Topic 5: Data Disaggregation**

Speaker 1: There must be a change in the methods used in reporting statistics for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders because there are huge differences between the two populations. In Hawaii, the teen birth rate is 145 per 1000 compared to 32 per 1000 stateside and the low 20s in the Asian American community. Historically, the federal government has not recognized these two groups as separate, so these huge differences between Hawaiians and Asians have been overlooked. Consequently, statistics are not accurate or applicable; it does not make sense to continue collecting data in this manner. To provide best outcomes for children, youth, and families, there needs to be data disaggregation so disparities amongst groups within the AAPI umbrella term can be distinguished.

Speaker 2: Data disaggregation is critical, particularly in work with prisons. There are issues that are very specific to the Islands and Native Hawaiians, which are crucial for funding, grants, and research. We are always guessing at the number of incarcerated native Hawaiians because we do not have that information. Data disaggregation is needed.

## **WHIAAPI Response:**

WHIAAPI recognizes and prioritizes the need for greater data disaggregation for AAPI communities. In September, WHIAAPI hosted the 2015 iCount Symposium to monitor progress and evaluate best practices for data disaggregation in the federal government. The U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and Housing and Urban Development have also committed to new efforts to collect data that disaggregates 6 Asian American and 4 Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander sub-groups in future national surveys. Further, the U.S. Census Bureau and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention partnered last year to collect National Health Interview Survey data on Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations, with results expected to be released in Fall 2015. For further information on what the federal government is doing to promote greater AAPI data disaggregation, please visit <a href="http://www.data.gov/aapi/aapicatalog/">http://www.data.gov/aapi/aapicatalog/</a>.

## **Topic 6: Access to Capital**

Speaker 1: There needs to be a clarification of the definition of native community development financial institutions (CDFI); native CDFIs used to be linked to native-controlled financial institutions. Currently, credit unions are competing with native CDFIs with the backing of much larger financial institutions.

Speaker 2: Community development blog grant (CDBG) funds are meant to improve the life of people. However, taking away the last two commercial lots to put in a Neiman Marcus and a fire station makes no sense. Please investigate the gross social inequality in the investment of funds. There needs to be better equality of federal HUD CDBG for low/moderate income communities.

Speaker 3: Bank of America owes millions in judgment and in late fees. Bank of America's failure to pay has resulted in significant opportunity cost. Bank of America must fulfill it's commitment to Hawaii.

## **WHIAAPI Response:**

Thank you for sharing these concerns. WHIAAPI agrees that improving access to resources for community development is critical to economic development and success. WHIAAPI will share concerns regarding access to community development resources for low income communities in Hawaii with the U.S. Treasury and Department of Housing and Urban Development.

#### **Topic 7: COFA/Micronesian Concerns**

Speaker 1: Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are different. Hawaii needs the government to fund unfunded mandates. In regards to COFA migrants, there is a large population of domestic violence survivors. Human and sex trafficking can start at 11 – we need to close the socioeconomic gap to prevent this from continuing. Many people live in tents, an issue that more affordable housing would resolve. We also need more early education; many people don't have access to this. Please support efforts that will support entire families. We need affordable housing to help these families.

Speaker 2: Don't listen to the media – they mislead people about us. We are conscious of our land and culture. Learn from and understand us. Micronesians are excluded from policy in the federal and state level.

Speaker 3: We need better laws and rights for immigrants. US Citizenship and Immigration Services adapted their policies to the fact that Hawaii is a set of islands. They discontinued the use of biometrics and they don't have the data to justify starting services again. There is a dire need to continue these services because 34,000 people are still in the process of naturalization. 25,000 are Asian-born immigrants. 1,950 are potential DACA beneficiaries. 90% are from the Philippines. They can't come to Oahu because of the cost and [limited] access to transportation. Please emphasize to USCIS

their obligation to provide a feasible process, otherwise it is meaningless. Please support efforts to recognize federal advocacy around this problem. Need presence of USCIS and immigration services on the other islands, not just Honolulu.

Speaker 4: We need universal regional health insurance. Hawaii is burdened by the other islands. We need to provide health insurance to everyone throughout the islands, but need an actuarial study first. This actuarial study would cost \$500,000. We need help with this effort – who should we contact? Once we can pull the numbers together, I think that will show that this is affordable and possible. As for RECA (Radiation Exposure Compensation Act), this act does not include Guam. Guam has been exposed to the downwind of radiation and we have the study to prove it. In terms of climate change, coastal areas are under water. Instead of EPA suing us, they need to provide money to give us alternative solutions.

Speaker 5: We want a summit in Guam and the Pacific every 2 years. We want to continue the dialogue with WHIAAPI. Issues in Guam include homelessness, domestic violence, STI/teen pregnancies, suicide, and health disparities. The prison system is obsolete – there are no programs in prison system right now. We want the Department of Justice to take a look at that. There is an overrepresentation of veterans in Guam. There are no veterans hospitals or offices in Guam. Many people from Micronesia and Guam have to travel 7 hours to Hawaii to get services. They need services in their own region outside of Hawaii.

*Speaker 6*: I am from the Marshall Islands. The treaty promised us education, employment, and health and they need to provide it.

#### **WHIAAPI Response:**

Thank you for sharing these concerns. In response to concerns raised by the Pacific Islander community, WHIAAPI led a one-year Pacific Island Task Force effort to coordinate federal agencies to respond to a range of issues including veterans health care, access to funding and grant opportunities, access to federal and state resources, among other concerns. The Pacific Island Task Force concluded its efforts in September 2015 with a <a href="mailto:summary of key">summary of key</a> accomplishments but its member agencies will continue engagement to improve support for Pacific Islander communities through their 2016-2017 Agency Plans. WHIAAPI will share these additional priorities and concerns with the Department of the Interior, United States Citizenship & Immigration Services, Environmental Protection Agency, and other agencies for further action.

## **Topic 8: Health Disparities and Behavioral Health Integration**

Speaker 1: We need federal government support to address Hepatitis B in our communities. We need to increase awareness and access to help people with Hepatitis B. We request continued support on this important issue.

Speaker 2: Asians and Hawaiians have a large population of people with Hepatitis B, which is a highway to liver cancer. Four of the military branches and other uniformed groups exclude people with chronic HBV even though they are protected by vaccinations. There are different policies among groups. The Department of Defense accepts people who smoke. PHS does not. These are not the same criteria. Additionally, some people with Hepatitis B are told that they are ineligible for some scholarship programs. They are excluded from many opportunities as a result of Hepatitis B, so policies need to be revised to discontinue the use of discriminatory practices.

Speaker 3: Data on obesity and diabetes shows that it is occurring among children as early as preschool. Educating children about these issues is the best way to prevent obesity. Consuming native health food is the best preventative method. Native Hawaiian people have not been surveyed and this gap in consideration of is reflected in the way federal programs are designed. We need to be a part of the system and advocate for expanding Hawaiian inclusion in health monitoring in order to better prevent obesity.

*Speaker 4*: Gang violence in the Pacific Islands is disrupting communities. The lack of disaggregated data is a glaring issue, which needs to be resolved to better aid these ongoing issues. HCSA does not have appropriate ways to handle health care and behavioral health integration.

## **WHIAAPI Response:**

WHIAAPI prioritizes the need to raise awareness about health disparities in the AAPI community, including Hepatitis B and diabetes. To this end, WHIAAPI worked with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop the National Viral Hepatitis Action Plan, which is included within HHS' Agency Plan for AAPIs. Additionally, WHIAAPI partnered for several years with the Hep B United coalition to co-host webinars addressing strategies and new tools to reduce Hep B transmission. WHIAAPI has also worked to tackle childhood obesity, particularly in the NHPI community, by partnering with university institutions and hosting events aimed at educating youth. However, we agree that more can be done and will share these comments with HHS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Department of Defense to determine what additional efforts may be feasible.

## **Topic 9: Mauna Kea**

Speaker 1: Mauna Kea is the sacred umbilical point of the planet. Preservation has been horribly mismanaged and the mountain has been degraded, which causes extreme pain for people. The movement to protect the mountain has been going on for years, but the

high point was when machines (like the telescope) were allowed on the mountain. We request the federal government to investigate this case and file a suit against Hawaii for breach of trust and mismanagement of the islands. The state has failed to protect the public trust lands and native practices. The state granted permits to corporations and private entities, adversely impacting the mountain.

Speaker 2: The telescopes in the mountains are painful. We need the mountain back. There was an executive order to protect the islands, please ask for it again to protect these mountains. The land is our chief and we are its servants. Please get and enforce an executive order to protect the mountains and prevent foreign intrusion.

Speaker 3: We need to protect Kaluapapa Island. 40 years ago, we were able to get the National Parks Service (NPS) to save the island from development. Now, NPS is looking to change that because the population has reduced and there aren't any more cases of leprosy. But we still need to keep Kaluapapa as a sanctuary.

## **WHIAAPI Response:**

Thank you for your testimony. WHIAAPI recognizes the unique importance of proper land management for indigenous communities, including the protection of Mauna Kea and Kaluapapa Island for the Hawaiian people. We will share your concerns with the National Park Service, and will seek to understand what role, if any, that the federal government can play to address these concerns.

#### **Topic 10: Other Topics**

Speaker 1: Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association is an important case and difficult to get by the way it is. Corporate CEOs are manipulating the situation. Unions give great benefits to workers: AAPI workers in unions received \$19.89 average pay, while nonunion workers are paid \$16.00. Unionization will help workers, and everyone should be engaged and working with a union. Everyone has the right to make their way, and these legal cases make it more difficult. The impact that this Supreme Court case will have on working people should be evaluated.

Speaker 2: Our families have been here since the 1800s and we are sympathetic with the Hawaiian point of view. We are facing climate change: the nearest shore waters are 3 degrees warmer, and eight hurricanes have threatened us. The use of federal funds should be re-examined because they are currently dragging us into the wrong direction: Our airport is located on the shore with the main runway on a reef. The rail project is disrespectful to Native Hawaiians and is zoned by the shoreline. A third city is being built in what used to be soft flats because there are low-lining areas next to the ocean. There are no cultural monitors for caves and burials, and trails are impacted without regard to Hawaiian history, people, or ancestors. The airport should be relocated, and federal funds should not be used to move us closer to the shoreline.

Speaker 3: In terms of health issues, the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act should provide more services to Native Hawaiians. Housing funds should only be used for Hawaiian lands. Additionally, public housing is under the state and the city is so full with people from other areas. Native Hawaiians are on the list for public housing or Section 8 or Hawaiian Home Lands and kicked off the list when they don't renew. The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands places public housing on Hawaiian homelands. It can be difficult to take advantage of grant opportunities because of all the red tape during the application process. In regards to 99 year leases, go across the board and take care of all of those in need.

Speaker 4: The loan period has run out on our 30-year mortgage. Our credit was not bad but the company will not let us use it again; please evaluate that. Can tell which homes are impacted by the policy by the way they look. In terms of passports, we applied on July 9<sup>th</sup> with an expedited request, but we have not received anything yet and that the office is behind. This is unacceptable. In terms of land, loans shouldn't be given out because of people's names. In terms of bullying, there have been hospitalizations. In our experience, the principal was too afraid to say anything, and the cops would not even write the report. There is a problem with people who are supposed to help but are not doing their jobs.

# Speaker 5 (written comments):

Our school in Southern California is both HSI and AANAPISI designated. We have been locked out of the application process because we are competing for the same federal grant that does not allow an institution to have both HSI and AANAPISI grants. The Asian American Studies department and the Chicano/a Studies department see the need to collaborate with each other and other local schools to create a community to college pipeline by involving community-based organizations, community colleges and the CSUs. Yet, the grants have made it difficult to collaborate and lock us out because we are in smaller numbers than the Latino/as population. The imperialist ambitions of the U.S. have resulted in the marginalization of Native Hawaiian people and other Pacific Islanders who reside in US territories (e.g., Guam, Samoa). The ethnic gaps in terms of income, wealth, occupation, employment, housing, health, etc. of Pacific Islanders compared to other Asian Americans are wide. More government funding is needed to serve these marginalized communities.

Along the same line of reasoning as the first item, U.S. wars in Asia have traumatized many peoples who are now refugees or immigrants in the U.S. Studies have begun to document how trauma is transmitted from one generation to the next. We need to invest more money to studying traumas to help victims of wars as well as soldiers who had to carry out wars. The new refugees from Burma/Myanmar and Bhutan also need more resources than are given to adjust to life in the US before they become another underclass racialized minority group.

The model minority stereotype still negatively affects us, especially Southeast Asian refugee and Pacific Islander communities that are still impoverished with high rates of high school drop outs, cervix cancer and diabetes, because we are all seen as successful minorities who could pull ourselves up from our own bootstraps. In short, we don't even get the same resource allocation as other racial groups from our own school because we are viewed as the model minority.

APIs constitute 10% of the undocumented population and there are 5 Asian countries in the top ten countries of origin for undocumented immigrants: China, Philippines, South Korea, Vietnam, and India. We have an increasing group of undocumented students facing many financial obstacles on their path to a college education and a financially secured future.

Seen as perpetual foreigners, Asian Pacific Americans are questioned about our loyalty. Given the past wars and current conflict in Asia, Asian Pacific Americans are not seen as real Americans and as threats to American way of life. We experience hate crimes by bigots and racial profiling by authorities. Racial profiling of South Asian and dark Asian bodies are ongoing stressors for these Americans. The case of Wen Ho Lee continues to haunt us as we see its recent reincarnation with the reaction by authorities to Ahmed Mohammed's homemade clock.

API people who don't identify as straight or cisgender still face many obstacles. The highest suicide rate is amongst LGBTIQQ students and the second highest rate of suicide is amongst API students. Hence, API LGBTIQQ students are the most vulnerable because of racial, gender and sexual prejudice, bullying and discrimination.

#### **WHIAAPI Response:**

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Thank you for your testimony. These comments will be shared with federal agencies and departments as appropriate.

12/16/15

Dr. Tung Nguyen, Chair of the President's Advisory Commission on AAPIs